



FEMA

Briefly Speaking

Region V Newsletter

Region V Recovery Division Wins "Outstanding Team" Award

At the annual Federal Employee of the Year luncheon, sponsored by the Federal Executive Board (FEB) on May 4, FEMA Region V's Recovery Branch was announced as the winner in the "Outstanding Team" category.



U/S Brown with several members of the 2005 Federal Employee of the Year "Outstanding Team"

The Chicago FEB established the award 48 years ago to "recognize and honor the brightest stars of our federal workforce." Among the deciding factors in selecting the winning team were: impact, teamwork and special efforts. This year's ceremony was held at Soldier Field Stadium - its theme was "Federal Employees - Stamp of Excellence."

Those honored for their efforts in support of 9 regional disasters, as well as their work on the 2004 hurricanes, were Larry Bailey, Bertha Curtis, Bill Powers, Linda Richardson, Jeanne Kern, Stacie Grathen, Victor Kurz, Jean McGhee, Susan Jensen, Livia Dean and Priscilla Giuseffi. Thirty-two team nominees were initially submitted in this category.

Congratulations team - you've made us proud!



Ed Buikema moderates a panel discussion on the NRP national level coordinating structure

NRP Workshop in Chicago a Success

Nearly 400 local, state and federal emergency management officials participated in the National Response Plan (NRP) Workshop in Chicago on May 10. Sponsored jointly by FEMA Regions V and VII, attendees representing over 150 agencies came from states nationwide.

Co-moderated by Regional Directors Ed Buikema and Dick Hainje, the one-day event featured a keynote speech by U/S Michael Brown, as well as a variety of presentations, videos and panel discussions. Topics ranged from a local perspective on how the National Incident Management System integrates into the NRP and how the NRP is coordinated on national and field levels, to a scenario-based discussion on how the NRP can respond to 21st Century threats. The theme throughout - One team, one goal - a safer, more secure America.

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Message from the Regional Director...

Hello everyone! I want to once again congratulate the Recovery Branch in the Response and Recovery Division on winning the Federal Employee of the Year Outstanding Team Award. This recognition is well deserved. I also want to congratulate the others who were nominated - Ken Hinterlong, nominated for Outstanding Professional Employee, and all of the members of the Disaster Staff Recruitment Team, nominated for Outstanding Team. Although you did not win, your accomplishments were significant and deserving of acknowledgement, and you can be proud of what you have done. Thanks to all of the nominees for your hard work and for making the region look good.

Special thanks also go to Alyce Williams whose efforts contributed to the success of the National Response Plan Rollout, held in Chicago on May 10. Alyce worked hard coordinating with HQ and Region VII on the development of the invitation list, which exceeded 600 people, identifying speakers and panelists and on many other aspects of the event. Rollout events were held in 7 cities around the country and were considered a very high priority for DHS.

As you all have probably heard by now, Lee Champagne, one of the two Region V FCOs, is transferring to a vacant FCO position in Seattle. Lee reports to Region X on June 20. Lee plans to leave the Ohio field office some time this week and return to his home in California for a few days before heading to Seattle. Please join me in thanking Lee for his hard work on behalf of Region V and wishing him well in his new region.

We are now into our disaster season, as recent weather events in parts of the region reminded us. Hopefully, we will have a quiet summer all over the country so we can catch up on all of the work that remains from our busy disaster season this past year and so everyone can take their scheduled vacations.

Thanks for everything you all do to make DHS, FEMA and Region V look good.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our COOP deployment exercise on June 22.

Jan Odesho

Acting Regional Director

State Briefs...

Illinois: Winnebago County will be holding its Map Modernization Open House in Rockford on June 2. The meeting will provide the public and local officials an opportunity to review the new preliminary flood insurance study and rate maps. This is the second Open House held in Illinois to date.

Indiana: Three large (\$1M+) Public Assistance projects have been approved and funds obligated for the state: Delaware Co. is to receive more than \$2.8M for debris removal from county roads; the City of Anderson will receive over \$1M for power distribution repairs; and the City of Muncie will receive over \$1.1M for removal of debris from city streets and municipal property.

Michigan: The Kent County Map Modernization Open House was held in Grand Rapids on May 18. Advanced outreach by FEMA, the MI Dept. of Environmental Quality and local officials resulted in a large, well-informed turn-out.

Minnesota: The state was awarded the Digital Elevation Model (DEM) grant for Fiscal Year 2005. This project will use LIDAR technology, where topographical information is obtained by bouncing lasers off the ground from an airplane to produce a contour map for a specific county.

Ohio: Ohio's Enhanced Mitigation Plan has been approved, making it only the 4th in the nation thus far. Completion of an Enhanced Mitigation Plan maintains eligibility for federal Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding, while increasing post-disaster mitigation program funding levels up to 20 percent (current rate), versus 7.5 percent levels with the Standard Mitigation Plan.

Wisconsin: Public Assistance funding has been approved to repair a dam in the Village of Fall River, WI. The structure was damaged by severe flooding that occurred in the area last May.

National Floodplain Managers Conference in Wisconsin

The 29th Annual Association of State Floodplain Managers Conference will be held June 11 - 17 in Madison, WI. Planners, engineers, consultants, watershed managers, educators and others will gather with government officials for the largest and most comprehensive floodplain management conference in the world.

Several Region V Mitigation staffers will join over 150 of the industry's experts, conducting plenary and concurrent sessions, sharing state-of-the-art techniques, programs, resources, materials, equipment, accessories and services to accomplish flood mitigation, watershed management and other community goals.

Nancy Olson, Anna Pudlo, Mary Jo Mullen, Lee Traeger, Eric Kuklewski, Terry Reuss Fell and Tira Miller will be leading workshops and making presentations on topics ranging from "NFIP 101" and how community flood risk information-sharing evolved from "Final Meetings" to "Open Houses," to "Residential Substantial Damage Estimation and Mitigation Grant Opportunities" and the "New Wisconsin Model Floodplain Zoning Ordinance."



DHS Partnership Meeting Held

Region V hosted the quarterly DHS Partnership Meeting with Chicago area DHS partners on May 18. Briefings were provided to the attendees on the National Response Plan and COOP. The next meeting will also be hosted by FEMA and is scheduled for the end of September.

Utica United Recovery Plan Wins Award

The Utica United Recovery Plan will receive an award from the Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association at their annual conference on June 10th at the Starved Rock Lodge in Utica.

To be eligible for an award, projects must be nominated in one of several categories: Distinguished Service; Plan; Implementation of a Plan; Program/Project/Tool; Public Education, or Special Community Initiative. The Utica United plan won in the "Special Community Initiative" category. One judge recognized it as "A quick but extremely thoughtful, inclusive and healing plan to get this community back on its feet - physically and psychologically."

Operation HOPE Helps With Emergency Financial Preparedness

Operation HOPE Inc. through HOPE Coalition America (HCA) participated in MoneySmart Week in Chicago last month by providing 17 disaster preparedness seminars at libraries across the city. The seminars were designed to assist individuals in protecting their assets, and preparing for disasters or emergencies by completing an Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK). This document aids people in creating detailed listings of their important personal and financial information. The companion document, the Personal Disaster Preparedness Guide (PDPG) guides them through the survival steps they should take prior to an emergency (*see Web link - p.4*).

HOPE Coalition America is the national emergency preparedness and assistance division of Operation HOPE, Inc., America's leading provider of economic empowerment tools and services. HCA is a national partner with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Citizen Corps, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the USA Freedom Corps.

Calendar of Events and Meetings

- **Newport CSEPP Community Annual Exercise (June 9)**
Newport, Indiana
- **MAX-HR Training (June 9)**
Employee and Labor Relations for Managers
Training Room - 10 am to noon
- **ERT-N Meeting (June 13 & 14)**
Crystal City, VA
- **FEMA/COE Senior Leaders Meeting (June 15 & 16)**
Crystal City, VA
- **COOP Training - All Hands (June 16)**
- **COOP Deployment Exercise - PFTs/COREs (June 22)**
- **Mitigation In-Service Training (June 23)**
Training Room - 2:00 pm
- **RISC Meeting (June 28 & 29)**
Training Room



U/S Brown addresses Region V staff at an all-hands meeting in the regional office on May 9

U/S Brown Meets with Staff at Region V Office

In an informal address to the Region V staff on May 9, Under Secretary Michael Brown congratulated the region on its exceptional work during the past disaster season and spoke on a range of issues of particular interest to the attendees.

Topics included the implementation of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the National Response Plan (NRP) Workshop in Chicago, and the importance of the Great Lakes Partnership and how it provides a model of the successful collaboration of public and private sectors where security issues are concerned. He also spoke about his pending appearance before Congress to report on issues that arose during last year's response to the series of hurricanes.

Brown addressed questions from the staff, including the status of the agency's hiring freeze on DAEs and PFTs, DHS regional offices and the implementation of MAX-HR.

Focus on Five...



New External Affairs DAEs assigned to Region V attended a 2-day training session in the region on May 17 & 18. The participants were introduced to the various divisions and programs offered, and breakout sessions focused on practical information for disaster deployments. Course instructors were Linda Sacia, Doug Welty and Sharon Sanders.

The new additions bring a broad range of experience with them, including work as journalists, positions with county and state emergency management, professional photography, healthcare and insurance specialists and community affairs. Representing *Public Affairs* are: **Sharon Carrington, Lynda Conn, Steve Crider, Carol Helderlein and Frank Mansell.** New *Congressional Liaisons* are: **CeCe Ganaway-Thompson, Duffy Parsons, and Bev Brumbaugh.** *Community Relations* has added **Mike Ellens, Joan Davis, Peggy Mead, Gregg Johnson, Corey Fulton and Richard Roman** to its roster.



Bertha Curtis

*Individual Assistance
Team Leader*

As a member of the Individual Assistance Hurricane Policy Group, Bertha Curtis, Region V Individual Assistance (IA) Team Leader, is temporarily detailed to FEMA HQ in Washington DC to work on a special project addressing two new action items recently added to the Policy Group's task list.

A need for consistency in training and credentialing of the IA Stafford Act Employee (SAE) cadre was found after the surge staffing events of the last hurricane season. Bertha is assisting with the development of task descriptions for each of the 17 IA SAE positions, coordinating with Regions to recommend an appropriate organizational structure to the Human Services Branch in the National Response Plan, determining the necessary training plan to address the organization and structuring of the IA Branch under NIMS in the Joint Field Office, and addressing training and credentialing requirements for surge staffing. The completed project will be forwarded as recommendations to the Policy Group at the next meeting.

While in DC, Bertha continues to work on her regular Region V duties and participate in HQ activities.

Web Links...

* For more information about the **29th Annual Association of State Floodplain Managers Conference**, go to:

<http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/madison.as>

* For more information on **Operation HOPE** and to download a free Emergency Financial First aid Kit, go to:

<http://www.hopecoalitionamerica.org/>

Building Renovation Update...

The Congress Parkway curtain wall has been set, but now all of the work up to the new wall inside the building must be completed. Work will be concentrated on the 6th floor as soon as the concrete floor is placed north of the 19 line. Lots of activity in the courtyard as the 90t crane is mobilized on June 6. The crane will concentrate on the roof top steel at the southeast and southwest corners of the roof. The south windows on the 6th floor in the atrium will give you the best vantage to observe this activity.

Once all of the steel is placed in the atrium, then the fun begins with the finishes, the skylight and the roof. The new LaSalle St. dock is open for business. They will be starting the LaSalle St. foundations soon, and are close to approvals from the City. The construction crew wants to thank everyone at FEMA for their friendly cooperation and hope to finish their work in early 2006.

If you have questions or concerns about the renovation's progress, feel free to call the construction superintendent:

Chip Fisher - (630) 742-9418.

In the Loop...Chicago events & festivals

Blues Festival

Grant Park

June 10-12: 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

NorthCenter RibFest

On Lincon Ave. between Irving Park Rd. & Warner

June 11: 12 - 10 p.m.

June 12: 12 - 8 p.m.

Chicago Tribune Printers Row Book Fair

500, 600, 700 blocks of S. Dearborn & 30-80 W. Polk

June 11-12: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Taste of Randolph Street

900-1200 W. Randolph Street

June 17: 5 - 10 p.m.

June 18-19: 2 - 10 p.m.

Chicago Antique Market

Randolph between Ada & Ogden

June 26: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Taste of Chicago

Grant Park

June 24 - Jul 4: 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Briefly Speaking is published by DHS/FEMA Region V External Affairs, 536 S. Clark St, Chicago, IL 60605. Comments or suggestions may be sent to douglas.welty@dhs.gov